

**Iowa Status**

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

right-handed snails

representative specimen

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Mollusca
Class: Gastropoda

Features

A right-handed snail has an asymmetrical body in a spiral shell. The opening of the shell is on the right when the spire (point) of the shell is held toward the sky and the opening faces you. A right-handed snail has internal gills. Each of the two eyes is located at the base of a sensory stalk. The mantle secretes the shell.

Natural History

A right-handed snail may live in any body of water with enough calcium carbonate in the water to allow for shell production. It is often found around vegetation. This snail lays eggs in gelatinous masses in the water. The eggs are attached to rocks or plants. It feeds by scraping algae off of plants and other objects in the water with its tongue-like radula, which has teeth.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens